

Student-Athlete Advisory Council

The Mason Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) was established in January of 1992 as a student athletic based organization, made up of two representatives from each of the 22 sports at Mason. It currently serves as the primary conduit for communication among and between student-athletes, coaches, administrators and the surrounding Mason community. Through a coach's nomination, a student-athlete is eligible to serve up to four terms (eight semesters) as the SAAC representative for their team.

SAAC meets on bimonthly basis addressing current topics of interest and concerns to Mason student-athletes. Under the supervision of both the Executive board (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and the SAAC Administrator, the student-athletes are able to discuss issues of concerns that directly affect their individual teams.

These student-athletes also enjoy the responsibility of maintaining a positive leadership role in the surrounding community by organizing, promoting and hosting several service projects throughout the year. By maintaining a healthy relationship with both the administrators and local community figures, SAAC believes that their efforts to help better Mason's student-athletes will not only be well received but also well recognized.

Throughout the years, SAAC has established themselves as the premier liaison between the student-athletes and the administration, servicing the needs of all student-athletes, whether it is academic, athletic or extra-curricular. As results of being a part of this organization, SAAC representatives not only learn how to coexist in a functional leadership environment, but they also have the opportunity to witness and experience how the voices of a few can change the minds of many.

Student-Athlete Advisory Council By-Laws

Article I. Name

The name of this student organization shall be known as the George Mason University Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC).

Article II. Purpose and Goals

Section I. Purpose

This organization serves as a conduit of communication among student-athletes, coaches and athletic administrators on issues to improve the student-athlete experience and promote growth and education through sports participation at George Mason University.

Section II. Goals

- A.** Be an effective advocate for the concerns and opinions of all student athletes in issues which are conducive to their success as both a student and an athlete at George Mason University.
- B.** Disseminate information of concern and interest to the student-athletes of George Mason University.
- C.** Promote the accomplishments of all student-athletes on and off the playing field.
- D.** Establish and maintain a leadership role in the community by organizing and promoting service projects that involve student-athletes.
- E.** Create positive and supportive community amongst all student-athletes.
- F.** Promote the health and well-being of all student-athletes.
- G.** Enhance relationships between the student-athletes and the University campus

Article III. Membership

Section I. Selection Process

- A.** The representatives and alternate will serve a two semester term.
- B.** There is no limit to the amount of terms which one may serve.
- C.** There cannot be more than one member which will terminate their NCAA eligibility by the end of the term.
- D.** Chosen representatives must be in good academic standing with the university and be trusted to uphold the rules established by the NCAA guidelines and the GMU Student-Athlete Handbook.

The SAAC will request that student-athletes from each ICA team apply to be representatives (two voting representatives, and one alternate) by April 1st of the spring semester.

Section II. Teams on SAAC

- A.** Only representatives from ICA teams recognized by the NCAA, in the NCAA bylaws, will be eligible to attend meetings outside the campus meetings, including meetings held on both the conference and national level.

The SAAC will request representatives from all ICA teams as well as representatives from the dance team, co-ed cheerleading squad, and all-girl cheerleading squad.

Section III. Attendance

- A.** Each voting member will only be given 2 unexcused absences a semester to meetings.
- B.** Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the executive committee when the council, by majority vote, decides to have meeting open to all student-athletes.
- C.** Open meetings can be held once a semester; if an open meeting is held, student-athletes NOT on SAAC must submit their names to SAAC advisor prior too.
- D.** The secretary should be informed of an excused absence at the time which the meeting is scheduled or at least 24 hours prior to the anticipated start of the meeting. c. Exceptions to this rule may be deemed necessary by the SAAC officers.

- E. Only the two elected SAAC representatives of the ICA teams are invited to attend formal meetings.

Attendance at all meetings is required.

Section IV. Removal Procedures

- A. The representative who has violated attendance policy will be contacted after their second unexcused absence and will meet with the SAAC officers.
- B. At the end of a semester,
 - 1) If a representative has violated attendance policy and
 - 2) the SAAC officers find the representative uncondusive to the purpose and goals of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council they can submit a request to the coach for a new team member as a replacement for the following semester.

Any member or officer having more than 2 absences a semester will be automatically removed.

Section V. Voting

Only two votes can be submitted by each team on votes taken during a SAAC meeting.

Article IV. Officers

Section I. Requirements

To be elected one must have served one semester as a representative or alternate for the Student-Athlete Advisory Council.

Section II. Officers and Duties

President

- A. Works with the SAAC advisor and fellow officers to organize and oversee all meetings.
- B. Responsible for preparing the agenda for all meetings.
- C. Delegates and oversee SAAC representatives for various campus and departmental functions.
- D. Delegates duties to other officers and their designated committees.
- E. Provide SAAC advisors weekly updates on progress.
- F. Co-chair of one committee chosen yearly.

Vice President

- A. Supports the President and in the President's absence shall perform the above duties.
- B. Work with the SAAC advisor in coordinating speakers, of interest to the council, for formal meetings throughout the year.
- C. Co-chair of one committee chosen yearly.

Secretary

- A. Responsible for taking minutes at every meeting.

- B. Responsible for keeping attendance at all SAAC meetings and functions.
- C. Emails minutes to the SAAC advisor, officers, and the council.
- D. Co-chair of one committee chosen yearly.

Treasurer

- A. Works directly with the SAAC advisor to oversee the finances with the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund, which includes but is not limited to the SAAC budget.
- B. Gives bi-monthly updates at each meeting to the Council of what has been spent and projected expenses.
- C. Co-chair of one committee chosen yearly.

Atlantic 10 SAAC Representatives *(Selected by Associate AD of Student Services and Coordinator of Student-Athlete Affairs) (Must be from sports teams that compete in the A-10 Conference)*

- A. Make all scheduled monthly conference calls and potential in-person meetings with the A-10 SAAC.
- B. Report back to the Mason SAAC pertinent information discussed on the monthly conference calls and any potential in-person meetings.
- C. Responsible for gathering feedback from the Mason SAAC, as requested by the A-10 SAAC, and reporting it to the A-10 SAAC in a timely manner.
- D. Understanding and helping to explain to the rest of the Mason SAAC representatives the annual NCAA legislation that is voted on during each fall semester.
- E. Assist with all SAAC events.
- F. Co-chair as needed.

Section III. Election Process

- A. Applications shall be submitted to SAAC advisor, with coaches' signature, by April 1st of the current school year.
- B. Prospective officers will be announced at the second to last meeting of the school year and voting will take place via e-mail the next week.
- C. The advisor will announce the officers for the following year at the last regularly scheduled meeting.

Elections for officers will be conducted the last meeting of the school year prior to the year which they will serve.

Section IV. Removal of an Officer

- A. Violations of the requirements prescribed as standards for all members of SAAC (Article III, Sec. 1.d)
- B. Failure to fulfill the assignment of his/her position (Article IV)
- C. Violations of the attendance policy required of all SAAC members. (Article III, Section IV)

Another application process to fill the vacancy will be held immediately or the Chair and faculty advisor may decide other arrangements. An officer's removal can be warranted by:

Section V. Board Meetings

The elected board will meet bi-monthly and follow the same guidelines outlined in Article V. as defined for meeting schedules.

Article V. Meetings

Section I. Meeting Schedule

- A.** When only one meeting is permitted due to recess in the university's class schedule the meeting will be a formal meeting.
- B.** Meeting times are to be determined at the first meeting of the semester.
- C.** The meeting date and times are to be written up and distributed to the council by the Secretary at, or before, the second meeting of the semester.
- D.** Scheduled meetings are required for all council members unless otherwise noted by the officers.
- E.** SAAC will meet a minimum of one time per academic year with the Director of Athletics.
- F.** SAAC will have the option to request additional meeting if needed and approved by the SAAC Board and members.
 - 1)** One meeting will be a formal meeting, the other meeting will be a brainstorming meeting.

Meetings will be held the first and third Sunday of each month.

Section II. Formal Meetings

- A.** Call to order
 - 1)** Representatives introduce themselves and give a team update.
 - 2)** To be carried out by the Secretary
 - a.** Request that the officers schedule a vote to be taken during unfinished business.
 - b.** Request that they can have the opportunity to propose new business.
 - 3)** Officers present an update of any business concerning their responsibilities.
 - 4)** Standing committees give an update on what was accomplished at the last brainstorming meeting.
 - 5)** Advisor presents.
- B.** SAAC Formal Meeting Agenda
 - 1)** The president addresses standing committees and the council on unfinished business brought up from the previous meeting that was not addressed in the reports by standing committees.
 - 2)** If requested by the council or committee, and granted by the officers, voting can take place on unfinished business.
- C.** Introduction of Seated Representatives
 - 1)** If speaker is scheduled to speak they are introduced and invited to present.

- 2) Prepared questions for the speaker are asked.
- 3) Speaker gives response.
- 4) Free discussion is welcomed.
- D. Reading and approval of minutes
 - 1) Adjournment
 - 2) Secretary gives a quick recap on votes and assignments given during the meeting.
 - 3) Reminder for the next meeting is given.
 - 4) The meeting is adjourned.
- E. Reports of officers and standing committees

Formal meetings will be once a month and allow the opportunity for administrators, students, and other guests of interest to speak with the council. Formal meetings will follow parliamentary procedure.
- F. Unfinished business
- G. Introduction of speaker
- H. New business
 - 1) New business can be proposed to be addressed or voted on next formal meeting or assigned to a standing committee for the following brainstorming meeting.
- I. Announcements

Section III. Brainstorming Meetings

A. *Community Service Committee:*

To promote student-athletes' involvement with service for the campus and/or the larger community through the Patriot Challenge and other various service projects as coordinated by the committee.

B. *Social Media Committee:*

To establish and promote a relationship amongst student-athletes, coaches and administrators under the National Collegiate Athletic Association; as well as relationships between the George Mason University campus community, and the extended community in which the campus resides.

C. *Academic Committee:*

To provide a better means of academic and career support for current and prospective student-athletes of George Mason University through educational programs.

D. *A.C.T.S. (Athletes Committed To Success)*

To promote the opportunity to hear a wide spectrum of voices, views, opinions and ideas with the diverse population of the student-athletes.

Brainstorming meetings will be held once a month where the following committees will convene to work on projects and develop ideas which will help fulfill the goals of the council.

Section II. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 50 percent plus one (50% + 1) of the membership and must be present to conduct official business.

Article VI. Finances

All monies belonging to this organization shall be deposited and disbursed through a bank account established by the University and the Director for Finance and Business Services under the title of Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund. The advisor to this organization must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

Article VII. Amendments & Revisions

Section I. Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the SAAC officers and SAAC faculty advisor, subject to the approval of the Director of Athletics. When the general committee exists any committee member or executive who wishes to make an amendment to this constitution may do so with a 4/5 vote in favor of the amendment by the general committee. An amendment cannot be proposed and voted on in the same meeting.

Section II. Revision

This document must be reviewed every year and resubmitted by the second meeting of the first semester to the Advisor of the SAAC.